

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Regional Office VII
1750 Baltimore, Room 249
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

April 21, 1975

Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Eagleton:

The U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service forwarded a copy of Mr. George Gleason's letter to this agency for a response concerning a large tank of dioxin in the Springfield area.

Before commenting on the Dioxin question, I would like to briefly address another area mentioned in the letter, fluoridation of water supplies. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare has program responsibility for this but since EPA provides technical assistance to the Department I believe a response is appropriate.

Sodium fluoride and sodium silicofluoride were used as rodent poisons at one time because these chemicals are not accumulative and will not affect the food chain. Additionally, there is no scientific evidence demonstrating that fluoridation at proper levels will have any adverse health effects. Some 43 national and world health organizations endorse fluoridation.

With respect to the possibility of sodium fluoride in excessive amounts, we would point out that the average city using one million gallons of water per day will use 19 pounds of chemical per day. In order to reach a possible harmful level, 38,000 pounds of sodium fluoride would have to be added. The typical chemical feeder holds only 100 pounds.

The Syntex Agribusiness, Inc. facility at Verona does have approximately 4,600 gallons of Dioxin (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzodioxin) stored in a mild steel tank. This tank is situated on a solid concrete slab surrounded by a concrete dike. All lines connecting this tank with adjacent buildings have been disconnected, thereby providing total isolation of the tank. Additionally, the Dioxin is in the form of a solid at atmospheric temperature and, therefore, would not escape even if the storage tank should rupture.

Even though the material poses no danger to the environment at present, the Company wishes to dispose of it as soon as possible. They

CIGR:Kritter:me:x5495

CIGR

RCAD



40030212
SUPERFUND RECORDS

RECEIVED

APR 22 1975

EPA-ARHN
REGION VII, K. C., MO.

7 01433

69-1

Site: Syntex Verona
ID #: MSD007452154
Break: 14.1
Other: 0751
4-21-75

are presently negotiating an agreement with a disposal company and expect the material will be destructed within two or three months. Procedures for handling the Dioxin are being coordinated between concerned Federal and State agencies.

We are pleased with the responsible attitude being taken by the Syntex Agribusiness, Inc. in this matter, particularly since no Federal agency has regulatory authority over problems of this nature. The Toxic Substance Control Act, Senate Bill 426, now being considered by the Congress would provide such authority.

If we may be of further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Jerome H. Svora
Regional Administrator

✓
bcc: Hq, AL (AL-2730)
WATR Program
ARM Program